



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2004

Town of East Windsor

Town Updates:

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. I would like to begin this column by thanking you for re-electing me as your First Selectman. I anticipate the next four years will be both challenging and exciting. With your help and support, I will continue to work to maintain a balance in our community meeting the needs of all our residents from preschoolers to senior citizens. In addition, I look forward to joining with you in celebrating the many events that showcase the unique character of our Town.

Our first challenge for the New Year will be to formulate and pass a budget that will meet the needs of our community. We hear continuously that this will be a difficult year for state and municipal budgets. With a state deficit being predicted for the third straight year and the economy not recovering as quickly as hoped, we have our work cut out for us. For those of you who may not fully understand where the money comes from to provide Town services, let me give a brief overview. Last year we received approximately 23% of our income from state and federal funding, 7% from local revenues and the balance of 70% from property taxes.

This year we will again see increases in the cost of education, public safety, trash disposal, and health insurance. We are being told not to expect an increase in state funding, in fact, cuts in the funding we were promised are being considered as part of a reduction in the state budget. If this should happen we have few options; decrease the amount of money appropriated for town government; decrease the amount of money appropriated for education; or increase property taxes.

Each of these choices comes with a price. As a Town we operated with a minimum staff in aging facilities that are requiring more and more repairs. If we don't address our current needs on a timely basis, we will face larger and more extensive problems in the future. Residents are calling for additional services in the areas of recreation and public safety and rightfully so. These services all cost money and just to keep what we have in place will require additional funds for the coming year. To decrease the amount of funding appropriated for education would be equally damaging. We are facing a time of increasing needs for skilled teachers and support personnel. To cut any of these positions would not serve the youth of our Town. The third option, is to raise property taxes and that is not acceptable to those living on a fixed or reduced income. While our Town budget dilemma may seem quite complicated, it is important that we all work together to find a solution.

What can you as a resident do to help? Two things! First, become active in the budget process. This can be done by attending both Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen meetings and letting your thoughts be known. Both boards need to be made aware of what services our residents consider essential and where they think cuts could be made if necessary. Don't wait until the annual budget meeting to criticize the hard work of others.

Second, contact our state legislators, Senator Gary LeBeau and Representative Ted Graziani. Let them know we cannot absorb any more decreases in state funding. Over the course of the next few months they will meet at the capitol and make decisions that affect all of our lives. Tell them how you are personally effected by any cuts they may be considering and remind them they must not shift the tax burden to our towns during these tough times. If you would like more information on the budget process or ways to lobby our legislators, please contact me at 623-8122 or by e-mail at EWFS1@aol.com.

On a more positive note, I am pleased to report that we were able to renew our trash collection contract with Waste Management for a period of five years with less than a 3% increase in yearly costs. As part of the renewal, and to improve service, residents will be able to call directly to the South Windsor Office for information and to schedule pick up of metal goods. The new number is 282-0432.

Although we were able to contain costs for the collection of refuse, our tipping fees with C.R.R.A. continue to escalate. In five years the cost has risen from \$49.00 to \$ 63.75 per ton. Fortunately, as we recycle more items, our tonnage is decreasing. Please do your part to help us continue to reduce this expense and recycle whenever possible. If you are unsure what should go in the orange bin, please call Jennifer at (860) 623-8122 and she will mail you a copy of our recycling and refuse collection brochure. If you are a new resident or need a recycling bin, you can pick one up at the Tax Collectors office at Town Hall.

I would like to close with a sincere thank-you to the men and women who serve in our armed forces all over the world. My thoughts and prayers are with them and their families as they continue to preserve the values of our great nation. I wish you all a year of prosperity and peace.

Linda Roberts, First Selectman

Town Hall

11 Rye Street

Broad Brook, CT. 06016

Presorted Standard

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 20

Broad Brook, CT.

EAST WINDSOR

RESIDENTIAL POSTAL PATRON

Community Corner

East Windsor Lions Club:

On **February 15, 2004**, there will be a Game Dinner hosted by the Lions Club at K of C Hall, Broad Brook at 12:00 noon. Get ready for some scrumptious food prepared by the outstanding Game Dinner Volunteers. Tickets \$20.00, Call

Lion Margaret, 745-1500 or Lion Dan 623-4669 for tickets and information.



On **March 21st**, from 8 am -12:30 pm the Lions Club will host an Old Fashion Farmers Breakfast at the East Windsor High School to benefit Scholarships. Call Lion Dee at 623-0669 for tickets and information.

Marilyn Butenkoff, Lions Club



St. Martha Players:

As proud to present **"LOVE & LAUGHTER, A Broadway Valentine"**:

A romantic stroll down memory lane for the lover in us all. Just in time for Valentine's Day, St. Martha Players presents an evening of entertainment featuring the music of many of your favorite Broadway Tony winners like My Fair Lady, South Pacific, Carousel, Annie Get your Gun, Oliver, Fiddler On the Roof and Old Fashion Farmers Breakfast at the East Windsor High School to benefit shows Aida, Baby, and Once Upon A Mattress.

If you love someone and want to give them an evening of fun, laughter, and sweet adoration, you owe it to them to bring them to see this show. **Show Date**

and Times, Friday/Saturday, February 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, at 8 pm, Sunday, February 15 & 22 at 2 pm. Adults \$15.00, Seniors and under 12 years old \$12.00.

We are located at Broad Brook Opera House, 107 Main Street, Broad Brook, CT. Look for us on the web at www.stmarthaplayers.com

St. Martha Players Ticket Line 860-745-6368.

Marge Stepansky, Secretary



Public Works — Engineering Department

MAILBOX SURVIVAL:

Snow thrown against a mailbox is often sufficient to cause damage to a less than perfect installation. Moisture content of the snow varies between storms, the higher the moisture content the heavier the snow will be. You may wish to experiment by filling a recycling box with snow from somewhere on your lawn and note how heavy it feels. Then empty it and refill it with the slushy snow from the end of the driveway. You may need help to lift it. This snow, mixed with the snowmelt caused by salt and traffic may be ten or more times as heavy.



HELP US HELP YOU:

- Inspect your mailbox post for age, cracks, dry rot and deterioration at the bottom where the post goes into the ground. Posts with cracks, dry rot, or deterioration at the bottom are likely to fail when wet snow hits them.

- Check the attachment hardware. Rusty nails or screws eventually fail. Use long enough screws to ensure the box and its support arm are secure.
- Keep the mailbox door closed.
- Keep in mind that the larger the mailbox the more square inches of area is exposed to the force of the snow. A larger more sturdy post and mount are needed to support the load.
- If purchasing a new post, purchase one that is of a dense pressure treated wood. If you pick one up and it does not feel heavy, pass it by. It will deteriorate quickly.
- Decorative posts turned on a lathe to make them round in places reduces the strength of the post. They will not withstand the twisting torque motion caused is usually a split along the grain of the wood starting at the support arm or at one of the narrowest points.

- The Town will compensate for a damaged mailbox when the Director of Public Works, or his des-

ignee, determines that a plow physically hit the mailbox. This determination is made by observation of cut marks, paint off plow blade, etc.

- Heavy snow coming off the plow blade will often knock over and damage mailboxes that haven't been adequately mounted or braced; or those mailboxes whose doors have been left open. Also private contractors, homeowners clearing snow, errant motorists, etc., damage mailboxes. The Town will not compensate for mailboxes in these situations.
- Claims of any damage should be reported to the Highway Department at 860-292-7073. Reimbursement upon approval in accordance with a policy adopted by the Board of Selectman.

*Len Norton, Director of Public works/
Town Engineer*



Broad Brook Volunteer Fire Department

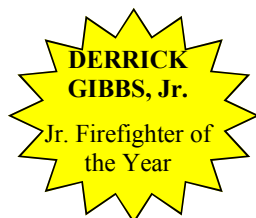
The Broad Brook Volunteer Fire Department (BBFD) is pleased to announce the appointment of the following Executive Officer positions for 2004, **President: Joe Niejako, Vice President: Bridgett Green, Secretary: Christina Long, Treasurer: Bruce Bois**

FIREFIGHTER & JUNIOR

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

On Saturday, December 13, 2003 at the Broad Brook Fire Department's annual members banquet, the following individuals were recognized as "Firefighter & Junior Firefighter of the Year." These individual have met the criteria of having gone above and beyond the call of duty; have above the minimum standards for attendance at emergency calls and drills; and the Firefighter of Year has completed Fire Fighter I training.

CONGRATULATIONS



HOME FIRES FROM CANDLES

The number of home fires caused by candles has been soaring in recent year and jumped a startling 20 percent from 1998 to 1999, the most recent year for which statistics are available. In 1999, there were an estimated 15,040 home candle fires that caused 102 deaths, 1,473 injuries (a 33 percent increase over the previous year), and \$278 million in damage. In contrast, in 1990, there were 5,460 fires attributed to candles. Candle fires are more common around the holidays because more people use candles and decorations are often near them. Home candle fires are more common in the winter months. Four out of 10 home candle fires start in the bedroom, and two out of 10 in common rooms, living rooms, family rooms or dens. The most common item first ignited by a candle is a mattress or bedding, except in December when decorations are the most common first item.

- Use candles only in rooms where there is a responsible adult awake to control and oversee the flame.
 - Keep candles away from items that can catch fire, such as clothing, books, decorations, window blinds and curtains.
 - Keep candles away from high-traffic locations where they can be easily knocked over, including any area accessible to children or pets.
 - Place candles on stable surfaces in sturdy holders that grip the candle securely and won't tip over.
 - Place candles in candle holders that can't burn and are big enough to collect dripping wax.
 - Extinguish taper and pillar candles when they burn to within two inches of the holder, and votive and container candles before the last half-inch begins to melt.
 - Avoid candles with combustible items embedded in them.
 - Use extreme caution if you carry a lit candle, holding it well away from clothing and any combustibles that may be near the path along which you walk, and avoid loose, flowing clothing that is not flame-resistant.
- Source: <http://nfpa.org>*

BBFD FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

A home fire alarm system is usually part of a total security system providing burglary protection in addition to fire protection. These systems consist of a central control panel to which smoke alarms and heat detectors are connected, along with bells or horns that are activated when the system triggers an alarm. Homeowners with a home fire alarm system are urged to contact their alarm company to provide an emergency number in the event that the homeowner cannot be reached.

Homeowners are also urged to make sure that their home has a house number displayed so that emergency personnel can easily locate the house. **Remember...every minute counts!**

Cal Myers, Chief and John Madigan, Assistant Chief

For more information, please visit our website at: [Http://www.broadbrook.org](http://www.broadbrook.org)

Christina Long, Department Secretary

Follow these Candle Safety Tips:

Senior Services

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

AARP Income Tax Assistance will be offered free to low-moderate income residents 60 years of age and older February 10th, 17th & 24th from 9 am - 1 pm by appointment only.

Bereavement Support Group is a wonderful group designed to assist anyone who feels they need some help with the grieving process. Our 6-week session begins February 11th from 10:30 am - 11:30 am; please call the center to register.

Monthly Socials are held on the fourth Thursday of the month and feature live entertainment. This is the day to pick up your new calendar and sign up for upcoming activities. Join us for lunch at noon and enjoy your afternoon with live entertainment. The cost of lunch is \$2.00.

Day Luncheon! Wednesday, March 17th at 12:00 pm. Corned beef dinner reservations can be made in advance by calling 292-8279 between 8:30 am - 1:30 pm.

February 26th	John Banker/Mardi gras Show
March 25th	Tara's Thistle
April 22nd	Bristol Old Tyme Fiddlers
May 27th	The Beethoven Chorus

Sign ups begin February 26, 2004. Our Foxwoods trips will be resuming after the winter break. We have two scheduled for the first part of the year; Tuesday, March 23rd & Tuesday, May 11th. Package includes \$10.00 food credit, \$15.00 Keno coupon, transportation and drivers tip. Your cost

Please join us for our special St. Patrick's is \$14.00. Please call the center to sign

up.

We are now taking up's for the AARP Safe Drivers course (formally 55 alive). This class will be held on April 27th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm and April 28th from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. The cost is \$10.00 payable to AARP, please call to sign up.

Transportation services is a **"by appointment only"** program serving the needs of those 60 years of age or older (or otherwise eligible) for medical appointments/Daily living needs. Appointments can be made by calling 292-8261.

Our Nutrition program offers a hot nutritious lunch from CRT for a nominal cost of \$2.00 Monday - Friday in our Senior Community Café. Reservations must be made at least a day in advance by calling 292-8279.

Laura Clynych, Director of Senior Services

East Windsor Veterans Commission



We, the member's of the East Windsor Veteran's Commission hope that everyone had happy holidays, especially the veterans and their families and that 2004 will be happy and prosperous for everyone.

The Veterans Commission had a very busy 2003 with well over 200 runners and walkers. Our 5k road race in 2004 will be special and will include cash prizes of \$200.00 for first place overall winners; male & female. Second place overall winners; male & female will receive \$100.00 and third place overall winners; male & female will receive \$50.00 for a total of \$700.00. So, get your running/walking shoes out and get moving. Good luck to all participants in 2004.

The next major holiday for the Veterans Commission will be Memorial Day with \$50.00 savings bonds go-

ing to the best essay writers in the school system and also to the best posters for the younger grades.

Again with this column, please consider donating an American Flag for the utility poles that line Main Street in Broad Brook and Warehouse Point. These are only \$35.00 and can be donated in memory of anyone you feel is worthy.

Thank you to all of the Veterans town and to all of the men and women who are serving their country in uniform today.

*Warren S. Wenz, Chairman
Veterans Commission*

Parade Flag Coupon

(Please Print)

In Memory/honor of: _____

Flag purchased by: _____

Send acknowledgement to: _____

Send \$35.00 donation checks to:

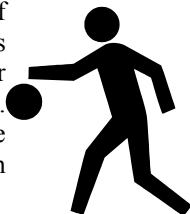
East Windsor Veterans Commission,
Town of East Windsor, P.O. Box 389,
Broad Brook, CT. 06016

Park and Recreation Department

Happy New Year to all the residents of East Windsor. We wish everyone a healthy and prosperous year.

Events and Activities:

Mens Open Basketball began December 1, 2003 - March 31, 2004, Monday's & Wednesday's from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at the East Windsor Middle School. You must be a resident of East Windsor. Fee is \$2.00 per night or \$30.00 for the season. Program takes place only when school is in session.



Vacation Fun will be an afternoon of **Ice Skating** on February 20th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Enfield Twin Rinks, 1 Prior Road in Enfield. All ages are welcome at no charge. You must provide your own transportation. Skate

rental will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Chaperones are needed. No registration required.

Winter Carnival/Community wide event takes place on Saturday, February 21st from 12:00 - 3:00 pm. At the Broad Brook Pond. **WEATHER PERMITTING** - listen to WTIC for cancellation information. Bring your ice skates and hockey sticks. There will be an ice sculpting exhibition as well as a wood carving demonstration. Hayrides will be available, relay contests, music and plenty of refreshments. Indoors at the Knights of Columbus Hall there will be a D.J., magician, ballooning and game show mania as well as a Dare exhibit. Flyers will be distributed throughout the schools. If you would be interested in volunteering or offering an activity for this event please call the Recreation

office at 860-627-6662.

Looking forward to Spring we will be having a Scavenger Hunt. The informational packet will be available on April 8th in the Parks & Recreation office or the Selectman's office at the East Windsor Town Hall. Flyers will also be distributed throughout the Schools. Get ready to put on your thinking caps for this fun family oriented activity. This will be a great opportunity to see how well you know your community. Stay tuned! Winners will be notified by phone after April vacation, which is the 19th - 23rd.



Donna Winn, Director

Parks & Recreation Department

Tax Collector - Important Notice To Taxpayers

\$ Notice is hereby given to Taxpayers of the TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR that the second installment of REAL ESTATE and PERSONAL PROPERTY taxes levied on the Grant List of October 1, 2002 are **Due** January 1, 2004.

SUPPLEMENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE taxes for vehicles newly registered between October 1, 2002 and July 31, 2003 are due January 1, 2004. These bills are mailed to individuals.

If payment is not made on or before February 2, 2004 each tax becomes subject to interest at the rate of one and one-half percent (1 1/2) per month from the due date of JANUARY 1, 2004 with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Receipts will be returned to those taxpayers who enclose a self-addressed envelope.

Taxpayers with delinquent MOTOR VEHICLES BILLS and need to re-

register at the DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES will need to bring CASH OR BANK CHECK to receive a clearance from the Tax Office.

Office hours are Monday - Wednesday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm., Thursday, 8:30 am - 7:30 pm, and Friday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Janet Regina, Tax Collector

E.W. Visiting Nurses Association



Happy New Year to all our volunteers. The Thanksgiving and Holiday baskets served over 100 East Windsor families this year. Scout Troop 89 was on hand to help in sorting and moving heavy boxes of canned goods delivered by the Public Works Department. Those kids come thru for the community every year. Many thanks to all of you. All left over non-perishables will be used to sustain families in need this winter.

We wish to bring to your attention again that we have in our office various health aids; canes, wheelchairs, etc. at no charge. Contact Human Services (623-2430) or Pat Bailey at 623-8304 if you are in need of any of the equipment mentioned.

In the next few weeks the VNA will start training on the new digital vision machine we donated to the school system in 2003. This machine will be used for many years to come. Anyone wishing to train on this machine to help us out can reach me at the

above number. This is a worthwhile project.

Our thanks to Dr. Mel Spielberg on behalf of the community & all our loyal volunteers form the successful flu clinic. The clinic is sponsored by the EWNVA and held at the E.W. Senior Center each October.

Pat Bailey, President VNA

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2004


East Windsor Town Hall
11 Rye Street
P.O. Box 389
Broad Brook, CT. 06016

Phone: 860-623-8122
Fax: 860-623-4798

If you would like your event listed in the next Town Newsletter, please submit in writing to: Newsletter, P.O. Box 389, Broad Brook, CT. 06016 or e-mail, jbrowne.eastwindsorct.com

COMMUNITY

CALENDAR

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Feb. 7 | Red Cross Blood Drive at Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook |
| Feb. 12 | Lincolns Birthday |
| Feb. 16 | Presidents Day |
| TOWN OFFICE CLOSED | |
| Feb. 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 at 8 pm | St. Martha Players presents A Broadway Valentine "LOVE & LAUGHTER" |
| Feb. 15 & 22 at 2 pm |  |
| Feb. 21 | Winter Carnival at Broad Brook Pond from 12 - 3 pm |
| April 3 | Red Cross Blood Drive at Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook |
| May 15 | Community Day |

We're on the Web at:

www.eastwindsor-ct.gov



Human Services

Energy Assistance Program 2003/2004

Do you need help paying home heating bill? The 2003/2004 energy season is underway, so gather your necessary income and asset information for the year 2003 or 2004 and make your application. Required documents are: copies of your 2003/2004 utility bills, four consecutive weekly pay stubs, Social Security and Pension or Veterans benefits, dividends and interest statements, and rent verification. It is important to apply for energy assistance for deliverable fuel by February 26, 2004 to be able to obtain your maximum benefits. Appointments for energy applications can be made by calling East Windsor Human

ConnPACE

ConnPACE is a state program that helps eligible senior or disabled Connecticut residents pay for certain prescription drugs, insulin, and insulin syringes. There is an annual registration fee of \$30.00. Participants pay \$16.25 for each prescription and ConnPACE pays the rest. The income limits for ConnPACE are:

Single Person \$20,000

Married Couple \$27,100

Apply now if you are disabled and receiving Social Security benefits or are age 65 or older. If you have any questions or need assistance with completing the application, please contact East Windsor Human Services at 860-623-2430.

Renters

Application will be taken for tax relief of Elderly and Totally Disabled persons starting May 18, 2004. It is important now that you save your income and proof of expense's information from 2003. The income limits for the Renter program are as follows:

Single Application \$26,500

Married Application \$32,300

Gather your 2003 information and save the date of May 3, 2004 to schedule an appointment. Gather your 2003 information and save the date of May 3, 2004 to schedule an appointment at Human Service 860-623-2430.

News Alert

News from your Cox Regional Cable Advisory Council representatives Elizabeth Burns and Scott Riach. The advisory council has created a forum at <http://www.coxct.com/forum/> that can serve as a mechanism for providing the council with public input on topics and issues concerning the cable television franchise serving our community. Example of topics for this forum include and are not limited to public access, programming, technology, high speed internet and digital telephone. Please visit this forum, we welcome your comments and feedback on your cable interests. The public is invited to attend the next Cable Advisory meeting Tuesday, March 17th at 7 pm at Cox Communications, 5 Nibbick Road, Enfield, CT.